

Message Text

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62

ACTION OES-06

INFO OCT-01 ARA-10 ISO-00 INT-05 L-03 CIAE-00 INR-07

NSAE-00 PM-04 DODE-00 DLOS-06 SAL-01 OMB-01 EB-07

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FM AMEMBASSY MEXICO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5970

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EFIS CU UR MX

SUBJ: CUBANS FISHING IN MEXICAN WATERS

1. ON JUNE 27, A SPECIAL REPORTER FROM GOM-LINING EL NACIONAL REPORTED THAT DOZENS OF CUBAN SHRIMPERS WERE FISHING WITHIN MEXICO'S 12-MILE TERRITORIAL SEA. THE REPORT APPEARED TO BE BASED ON COMPLAINTS FROM A LOCAL FISHING CO-OP IN CIUDAD DEL CARMEN, CAMPECHE, THAT THE CUBAN BOATS WERE OPERATING IN FULL VIEW OF THE MEXICAN NAVY COASTAL PATROL BOATS AND WERE SELLING THEIR CONTRABAND CATCH IN CAMPECHE. FURTHERMORE, THE REPORT CLAIMED, THE CUBANS WERE USING SMALL MESH NETS WHICH CAPTURED BABY SHRIMP THEREBY THREATENING THE STOCK WHEREAS AMERICAN SHRIMPERS WHO USED LARGER MESH NETS WERE "PERSECUTED".

SEVERAL EDITORIALS FOLLOWED IN EL UNIVERSAL DEPLORING THE INACTION OF THE MEXICAN NAVY AND FURTHER CLAIMING THAT SOVIET SHIPS USING CUBAN FLAGS AND JAPANESE LONGLINE FISHING BOATS WERE ALSO VIOLATING MEXICAN TERRITORIAL WATERS. (IT APPEARS THE LATTER CLAIMS WERE INCORRECT IN THAT NONE OF THE CUBAN SHIPS WERE IN FACT SOVIET AND THE JAPANESE SHIPS WERE OPERATING IN THE 200 MILE EXCLUSIVE ECONOMIC ZONE WHICH WILL NOT BE ENFORCED UNTIL JULY 31.)

2. ON JUNE 30, THE PRESS REPORTED AN INDIGNANT STATEMENT BY THE SECRETARIAT OF THE NAVY DENYING AND LACK OF

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VIGILANCE ON THE PART OF THE MEXICAN NAVY IN GUARDING

MEXICO'S TERRITORIAL SEAS, AND ANNOUNCING THAT FIVE
CUBAN FISHING BOATS HAD INDEED BEEN CAPTURED WITHIN THE
12 MILE TERRITORIAL ZONE, WERE FINED AND RELEASED.

HOWEVER, THE NAVY ANNOUNCEMENT AVOIDED MENTIONING THE
DATE OF THE CAPTURE OR THE SIZE OR TYPE OF FINES IMPOSED.
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Message Attributes

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